

P. Metzler, Ken
Sherburne, Phillip

"betrayal" upon discovery that he had actually (albeit inadvertently) been doing something constructive for his country.

As Ken Metzler sees it, Sherburne's role in breaking up the CIA-NSA liaison was something fine and pure and good, highly commendable—actions motivated only by the loftiest principles. Rot! To dignify Sherburne's actions with the term "courageous" is travesty. For whether or not he permits himself to be aware of the fact, Sherburne, in his own small way, struck a blow at the best interests of his country. Why?

Examined critically, Sherburne's arguments in support of his position disintegrate of their own weightlessness. Those "subtle pressures" of which he complains, if they ever existed at all, have obviously been something less than effective. After 15 years the NSA still fronts for pinks, espouses warmed-over Marxism and speaks out against the United States on many important issues. And further—as to the CIA's paying certain of the NSA people to say a few kind words about their country at student gatherings overseas—so what? Sherburne might better ponder the fact that American students had to be bought by their country in the first place.

Courage? Really now. It is difficult to see how anyone, even by means of the most fuzzy, tortured rationalizations, can read courage into any of this. After all, big bumbling CIA has long been the favorite whipping boy of every leftist on earth, and since it cannot defend itself, it is the safest possible object of attack. If this be courage it is certainly courage of a most nebulous sort—remote, negative, and intangible.

If Sherburne is sincerely interested in a positive display of courage, let him demonstrate some of a more tangible sort—say courage of the Henry Drummonds variety. Perhaps then, in the eyes of some of us, he might regain a little of his former stature. Then too, Metzler could stop working in parody and give us a bona-fide "profile in courage."

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Profile in parody

Only a little less difficult to stomach than the sanctimonious posturing of Phil Sherburne on your May-June cover is the theme of the Metzler article within ["Campaign Against Covert Action Division No. 5"]. Sherburne's actions courageous? Hardly. In reality, the part he played in the CIA-NSA affair is a depressing illustration of the woolly rationalizations, double-think and downright hypocrisy characteristic of the so-called "new-breed" of student. Note for example student Sherburne's feeling of

CIA 2.04.2 students
CIA 5.02.1

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